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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Note by the Secretariat

1. In a letter dated 18 September 1997 addressed to the Chairman of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, a reference was made to the statement made on 27 August 1997 by the Indonesian delegation on behalf of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the forty-ninth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under agenda item 11(b)(ii) entitled "Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief". It was requested that this statement be circulated as an official document of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights under the relevant agenda item.

2. In reply to this request, it was explained by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that, under the rules established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 2292 (XXII), 2538 (XXIV) and 31/140, speeches and statements made by representatives may be reproduced as documents only if they serve as bases for discussion, provided that the relevant decision is taken by the body concerned after a statement of the financial implications has been submitted. It was also pointed out that the above-mentioned statement of the delegation of Indonesia had already been reproduced in the summary records of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/SR.35, paras. 14-16). It was proposed to the Permanent

Representative of the Republic of Indonesia that a note by the Secretariat could be circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights containing a reference to his letter of 18 September 1997 and an indication of the appropriate summary record of the Sub-Commission, so that interested delegations would be able to easily find the text of the statement in question.

3. In a note dated 23 December 1997, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia confirmed its agreement with the above proposal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.